THEIR NIGHT TO SMILE — Eighty-eight youngsters from area high schools were honored at the Football Hall of Fame's 17th annual Scholar-Athlete awards dinner Wednesday at Martin's West. AFRO photographer Mark Gail's coverage of the event included (L to R) Forest Park's Warren Berry receiving a kiss from mom, Mrs. Muriel Williams; City College's representative Hubert Mitchell; co-winners of the $1,000 scholarship Edward Kennedy of Middletown High and Jeff Forman of Glenelg, and (right panel) Morgan State coach Clarence Thomas with banquet speaker John Mackovic of Wake Forest. Thomas' Bears were cited as Maryland's college football team of the year.

NBA weekend

Schedule

Friday Houston at Washington

Boston at Atlanta

San Antonio at Detroit

Philadelphia at Indiana

Seattle at Chicago

Portland at Milwaukee

Denver at Los Angeles

Saturday

Boston at New York

San Antonio at Cleveland

Portland at Chicago

Phoenix at San Diego

Sunday

San Antonio at New Jersey

New York at Washington

Indiana at Atlanta

Philadelphia at Cleveland

Houston at Detroit

San Diego at Denver

Kansas City at Milwaukee

Utah at Golden State

Phoenix at Los Angeles

Monday Boston at New Jersey

Detroit at Philadelphia

Ala. State five rocks NAIA; others bow out

The Alabama State Bulldogs, winning greater respect in each game they played, lived up to No. 1 billing in the NAIA tournament, currently in progress at Kansas City, Mo.

Four other teams from predominately black colleges fell by the wayside, however.

Hampton, Dillard and Paul Quinn were ousted in the first round, and St. Augustine's bowed out in the second.

Kevin Loder scored 29 points to help the Bulldogs to top 100 points for the second time in two games in posting a 103-78 victory Wednesday over South Carolina-Aiken.

This followed an opening (Wednesday) fireworks display in which Loder had tallied 34 points to pace an embarrassingly easy 103-57 shellacking of Dowling College of New York.

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Alabama State hit 68 percent of its shots in the first half to take a 58-39 lead, getting 19 points from Loder. The Bulldogs padded their cushion to as many as 26 points in the second half in upping their record to 30-1 on the year.

Robert Phillips and Melvin Crayton chipped in 16 points apiece.

The awesome explosion by Alabama State caused one rival coach to moan over the protest of meeting the rampaging Bulldogs.

Central Arkansas coach Don Dyer Shuddered when he discovered that his team's win over the local Rockhurst College five meant taking on the Bulldogs next.

Dyer observed that his team has been "doing just enough to win" its first two games.

But, he added that enough to win "against Alabama State may be out of Central's reach. After all, even cinderella had a midnight.

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"Talk about having to rise to an occasion, we'll really have to rise up for that one.

"They've got some of the best athletes in the tournament on one team," Dyer said. "They need to loan us some of them. That's the best basketball team I've seen all year.

"We need to play about eight men and they need to play about five. That might make it fair."

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In the early games involving black-college quints, St. Augustine's of the CIAA won but Hampton, Paul Quinn and Dillard lost.

The Falcons, seeded 14th, rode to a 66-63 victory over Southern Tech (Ga.) on the wings of an 18-point output by Anthony Boggan, on Tuesday. They were ousted the following day, however, by Cameron College of Oklahoma.

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Also on Tuesday, the Paul Quinn Tigers from Texas, blew an 11-point, 30-19, lead and bowed to Huron College of South Dakota, 82-72, despite a 37-point effort by Lorenza Scott.

And Dillard succumbed to Marymount (Kansas) College, 99-88, in overtime (when the New Orleans defense was unable to cope with Jerry Siminski, who hit eight of his 19 points in the 5-minute extra period.

Don King signed boxing duo

NEW YORK - Promoter Don King announced Monday that he has signed two of Nigeria's outstanding fighters — Eddie Ndukwu and Obisia Nwakpa, both undefeated and both world-ranked — to keep a commitment made to Nigerian heads of state.

Ndukwu, the WBC's No. 2 featherweight in the world, will fight a 12-round elimination bout against the current world super bantamweight champion, Wilfredo Gomez of Puerto Rico, sometime in April. He is unbeaten in 15 fights with 10 knockouts.

Nwakpa, undefeated in 20 fights with 17 knockouts, is ranked No. 6 by WBC in the super lightweight division. He will fight newly crowned Saoul Mamby of New York for the title in May or June.

Scholar-athlete awards to pair

Because the credentials were too close to separate, two youngsters were declared co-winners of the Scholar-Athlete award, presented Wednesday night at the 17th annual dinner of the National Football Hall of Fame at Martin's West.

Jeff Forman of Glenelg High, and Ed. Kennedy of Middletown were finalists among a field of 88 candidates.

The banquet also cited Morgan State University as having the "Football Team of the Year" in Maryland.

Pimlico opens Saturday with Preakness preview

Pimlico Race Course, which conducted its opening meeting in 1870, will begin its 110th year in business with a 10-race schedule Saturday and a feature event that could be a stepping stone to the famous Preakness Stakes for some 3-year-old colts.

Herman Cohen, track president, is expecting attendance and betting figures to set records for the 60-day season.

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Three Preakness nominees, including Entremont's highly regarded Amber Pass, are expected to clash in the opening-day, $30,000-added Hirsch Jacobs Stakes, a six-furlong sprint which honors the late Hall of Fame trainer.

Beelu Farm's Pickett's Charge and James R. Chapman's Cabin Proof are the other two Preakness nominees likely to run in the Hirsch Jacobs.

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The Hirsch Jacobs is one of 16 stakes in Pimlico's spring meeting, highlighted by the $200,000-plus Preakness May 17, the $100,000-added Black-Eyed Susan Stakes May 16 and the $100,000-added Dixie Handicap May 10.

For the first time, Pimlico will conduct 10 races on each Saturday of the meeting, including Preakness day, and will have an exacta in every race, the daily double in the first two races and the triple in the final event of the day.

Post time is 1 p.m.

Wheelchair track candidates sought

The Baltimore Ravens, the League for the Handicapped's wheelchair track and field team, are looking for members to compete in the upcoming season.

Participants will appear in regional games in Pennsylvania and Virginia. There is also an opportunity to attend the national meet in Illinois in June.

Persons 16 years of age or older who are paraplegics, leg amputees or have similar lower body disabilities are eligible to join the team. All participants will compete in wheelchairs.

Track events will include dashes and distance races. Field events will include the shotput, javelin and discus. Other events include swimming, archery, weight lifting, ping pong and a wheelchair slaldom — obstacle course.

Registration will be held through March 21, 1980 at League headquarters, 1111 East Cold Spring Lane. Practices will take place at the League on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m.

Interested parties should call 323-0500.

DIETING ON GREASE — Muhammad Ali, trying diligently to peel weight off his 253-pound frame, rumbs grease on his chest and stomach daily at his Miami Beach training camp. The former champ feels grease increases perspiration and ehips reduce the blubber faster.

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Bits O' Briefs

Boston Bullet

The Washington Bullets have signed 6-foot-8 forward Lawrence Boston to a second 10-day contract. No terms were announced.

Boston, a University of Maryland product, was playing at Rochester in the Continental Basketball Association when the Bullets brought him up.

Still straight

For the third consecutive week, Calvin Peete and Lee Elder remain in the top ten among pro golf's straightest drivers.

Peete has a percentage of .774 in hitting the fairway in tournament play, and Elder's percentage is .761, to be third and sixth, respectively, behind No. 1 Mike Reid.

Lawyer Smith

In his appeal for reinstatement as an amateur, record-holding quarter miler John Smith became a pretty good lawyer . . . Smith, barred by the International Olympic Committee three years ago for joining the ill-fated professional track tour, told the IOC: "If doping offenders can be forgiven, so should those of us who seek to make a living to feed our families" . . . . The IOC agreed.

Larry's next

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI) — Boxing promoter Don King says that Bernardo Mercado will get a shot at WBC heavyweight champion Larry Holmes.

"That's right, he beat the No. 1 contender," King declares, referring to Mercado's seventh-round TKO of Earnie Shavers. Mercado survived a third-round knockdown last Saturday to stop Shavers, the WBC's top-ranked contender, 48 seconds into the seventh round.

"I think they can meet in the near future," King added.

Trials anyway

EUGENE, Ore. (UPI) — The Olympic track and field trials will be held in Eugene this summer as planned.

Head coach Jimmy Carnes of the U.S. men's track and field team ended rumors that the trials might be cancelled with his announcement Friday that the U.S. Olympic Committee still plans to go ahead with its plans in Eugene.

NFL went big

National Football League paid attendance exceeded 13 million for the first time ever during the 1979 season when the per game average reached 58,848, the second-highest in the 60-year history of the league, the NFL announced Monday.

Attendance at all games including preseason, regular season and postseason surpassed 16 million for the second year in a row. Paid attendance for the 10 postseason games was 630,326, led by the 103,985 at Super Bowl XIV at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

BUT NOW TONIGHT — Georgetown's Eric "Sleepy" Floyd looks past Iona's Kevin Henderson in this Sunday action at Providence, R.I. And what did he see? He and his Hova teammates emerged from their 71-71 victory to bring into view tonight's (Friday) crucial NCAA clash with archrival Maryland at Philadelphia.

Coach admits that Morgan has tough lacrosse road

By Samuel Davis

When one talks to Morgan's Sheldon Freed about lacrosse team, the nine-year coach has trouble limiting his comments to just one aspect of the team. In most sports, a coach's number one priority is to "build a winner."

"Freed states that he wants to win just like any other coach, but he realizes the apathy in lacrosse in the black community, so his job is to do more than just "build a winner."

"These guys are a first generation that will be teaching black kids to play lacrosse. And if they don't learn to play well they won't be able to teach," said Freed whose team lost its opener to New Hampshire Wednesday, 16-4.

For the first time in nine years the Bears will be playing in a league, rather than independent. They join C. W. Post, Kutztown State, Montclair State, Villanova and West Chester State in the newly formed Mid-East Conference, of which Freed is president.

Along with games against all the conference teams except C. W. Post, the Bear stickers have nine other contests scheduled.

Of the nine, four are members of Division I, three were ranked in the top 20 in their divisions in the preseason polls, and one is a defending champion.

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The schedule is unquestionably a tough one for a team with a lacrosse program as weak as Morgan's, but that too is a part of Freed's plan.

"I want to get this team to the point where it can compete with and can beat the better teams," explained Freed. "The only way that can be accomplished is for the guys to play at that level. "But I think we're going to surprise a lot of people because these fellows have a lot of confidence and that's the key.

"On paper we don't have much. I can't say we have any All-Americans coming back, but I think the overall team is going to be better. And after all, this is a team game," he said.

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Freed is right, he doesn't have any All-Americans returning, although Morgan has had 10 players noted as All-Americans ranging from second team to honorable mention in her nine years.

However, goalie Cedric White, who averaged 23.3 saves per contest last last spring is returning. He was nominated for All-American honors last season.

Along with him, Freed gets back 11 other members of last year's team. They are joined by 13 newcomers. 11 from the Baltimore area, and the remaining two from New York. The final two players are Rodney Scott and William Marcus, who played in '78, but sat out the '79 season.

The Bears will play nine of their 13 games at Morgan.

Coppin ventures baseball under gridder's guidance

By Samuel Davis

When the Coppin State College baseball team takes the field for its 1980 season, it will be under the direction of a new head coach.

Tommy Davis, a former pro football player, will be the new mentor following James Lindsey, — who was released after last season.

Davis, who was an assistant to Lindsey during the latter part of the 1979 campaign, which saw the team play to a 15-17 mark, comes from an odd background for a baseball coach, since most of his experience is in football.

—

A native of Texas, and a graduate of Tennessee State, he had playing stints with pro teams in Philadelphia and San Diego. During his playing days, Davis also performed as a defensive-end position in the Canadian Football League.

The 33-year-old Davis' experience in baseball goes back to his high school days, when he played battery positions at Dunbar High School in Lufkin, Texas. His play earned him a pro offer, but a coach persuaded him to continue his education.

Football is my first love," said Davis, who resides in the Goldne Ring Mall area with his wife and son Tommy Jr.

"Health and physical education are my field. I've taught lacross, soccer and hockey, but right now, I'm happy to be coaching baseball."

One of these, all-NAIA first team catcher Fred Stringfield, had these comments about his new coach:

"He seems to know what he's doing. I'll tell you one thing: If nothing else, we'll be in shape because he works us. We'll score some runs," added Stringfield, who batted over .300 at the close of the 1979 season.

The bulk of the pitching is expected to be handled by Gerlad Coleman, who ran up a 6-1 record last year.

Along with the seven lettermen, Davis will be carrying seven newcomers. Four of them from just minutes away from the college's location, at Walbrook.

Terry Lee, an infielder who batted .270 with three homers, leads the crew, followed by Greg Satterfield, a switchhitter, who batted .257 from the right and .302 lefthanded. Runee Brown, a first baseman and pitcher and Raymond Smith, a reserve infielder, are also Walbrook alumni. In 1978, this group helped lead the Warriors to the MSA's "B" conference title.

Jarvis Page, a rightfielder, who batted well over .300, while helping Edmondson High to a season over .500, is another of the top newcomers.

ACC'S BEST — Maryland University's Albert King, a first (AP) and second (UPI) team pick for All-America honors, also was voted "Player of the Year" in the Athletic Coast Conference.

Eddie Murray ballet dancing best thing to happen to O's

By Milton Richman

MIAMI (UPI) —Sitting on one of those double-decker type benches out along the right field foul line that rose nearly five feet off the ground and he had to climb to get up on, Earl Weaver had a perfect view of his hitters taking batting practice.

"Watch him, watch him," the Baltimore Orioles' always animated, always attentive little manager urged a writer alongside him as switch-hitting Eddie Murray, hitting from the right side this time, dug in at the plate.

"He's the worst looking hitter you ever saw in batting practice. He looks like a ballet dancer the way he winds up on one foot all the time," Weaver said. "But when the game is on the line, he's one of the best in the world. Just like Reggie Jackson.

"I don't know how a guy can turn it on and off like that, but he's able to do it. Watch how he hits. He does the same thing all season long whenever he's taking batting practice."

Sure enough, Murray did little more than half-heartedly throw his bat at the ball and finished up on his front foot after making contact, the way most old men do when they come out for an occasional Sunday game of hard ball two or three times in the summer.

"Do you ever talk to him about the way he swings in batting practice?" the reporter asked.

Weaver laughed.

"I don't think Eddie wants to listen to a lot of words," the Orioles' pilot said. "He came down here unheralded, three years ago, went five-for-five right away, and made the club. He's quite a guy. He has fun with the other guys, but he doesn't care much about any"

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Whether he does or not, the Orioles' 24-year-old first baseman couldn't help receiving some the past three seasons by driving in 88, 95 and 99 runs during that period, hitting 27, 27 and 25 homers over the same stretch and posting batting averages of .283, .285 and .295. Something of an iron man, Murray has missed playing in only one game in that three-year span.

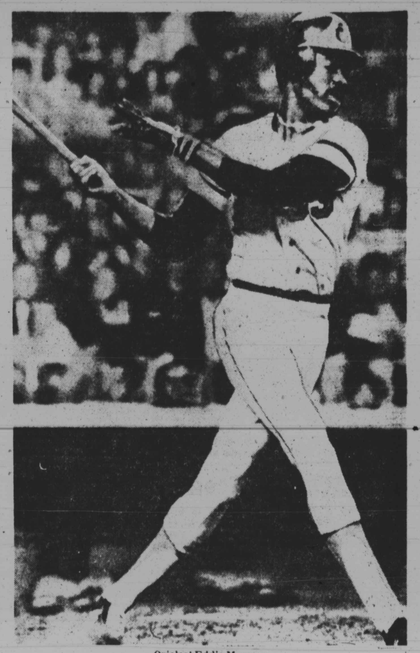
"I'm sure he could've had even better individual statistics if he had thought about it," Weaver said. "He's not that concerned with individual statistics, though."

Murray got a lot of publicity he didn't want last fall, going 0-for-21 in the last five games of the World Series. He had a lot of people in Baltimore praying for him when he came up in the bottom of the eighth inning of the seventh series game with Pittsburgh.

The Orioles were trailing 2-1 with two out, the bases full and the World Series right there on the line.

"Those are the kind of situations Eddie was born for," said Weaver. "He loves them."

Murray tagged one of Kent Tekulve's fast balls with bases loaded and lined it to deep right where Dave Parker slipped breaking back on the ball, but then recovered his footing to haul down the ball for the final out. That was it for the Orioles. Game, set and match. They never threatened again and the Pirates wrapped up the world championship an inning later.



Orioles' Eddie Murray
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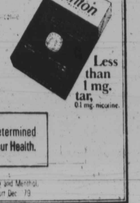

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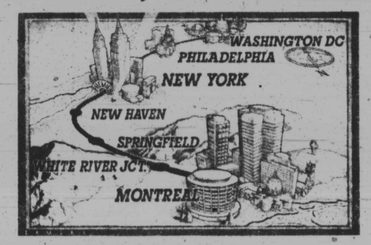

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